contra FLOW

Nov/Dec 1994
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FREE
56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St,
London SE17, U.K.
fax: 071 326 0353.

IRELAND
NO PEACE YET

Although both the IRA and loyalists have declared ceasefires, the largest armed forces in the conflict are still operating as usual - those of the British state. There can be no lasting peace while 32,000 British soldiers and armed RUC remain on the streets, and the whole apparatus of repression remains intact, including 135 army bases and 161 fortified RUC installations.

In the three months since the IRA ceasefire, British forces have continued to harass Irish people, and have met with widespread resistance. The following are just a few of the many incidents in recent weeks:

10 September: border busters reopen the Lenamore Road border crossing outside of Derry, using a digger to remove bollards. Three people are arrested and one beaten up by baton wielding RUC thugs who forced him into a ditch. Following the ceasefire, many border roads are reopened by local people only to be reclosed by the army, until on 23 October the government announces that all border roads will be reopened.

30 September: clashes between an army foot patrol and youths in Ardoyne Avenue, Belfast. During an argument outside a fish & chip shop, soldiers fire plastic bullets at point-blank range leaving one person in intensive care with life-threatening head injuries.

8 October: people use iron bars and ropes to remove concrete bollards blocking road leading to Greenvale Housing Estate in Cookstown. The estate has been under siege for over four years with all roads into it blocked by military checkpoints.

16 October: over 1000 people demonstrate against the British military presence in Crossmaglen, the most heavily militarised small town in Europe. People climb on the army base and hang banners.

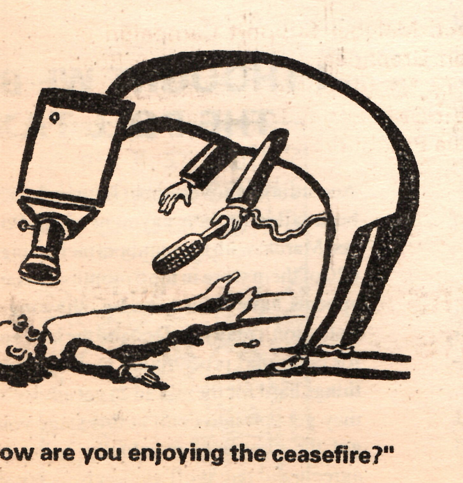
22 October: demonstration demanding the closure of the Fort Whiterock barracks, one of the biggest army bases in Belfast.

23 October: several people are injured when RUC open fire with plastic bullets at a crowd in Cookstown.

2 November: Crossmaglen man kidnapped at gunpoint by British marines and taken by helicopter to Gough Interrogation Barracks where he is offered money to become an informer. A few weeks previously his home had been wrecked in an RUC/army raid.

5 November: British army foot patrol clashes with local people in Newry, clubbing them with rifle butts and batons. Several people are injured, and five arrested.

16 November: a young man requires hospital treatment for facial injuries after being stopped, abused, and beaten up by paratroopers in Belfast.



"How are you enjoying the ceasefire?"

BRITAIN - NO JUSTICE

Labour MPJeremy Corbyn and his ilk's immediate response to the Battle of Park Lane was predictably to call for a public inquiry into the police handling of the demo - into how the cops lost control of the situation. These types want to isolate an incident of provocation to guard against next time - one provocation when we suffer them daily.

Of course the cops were stupid to try to stop the sound systems entering the park and then giving in so slowly, bit by bit, giving people the growing experience of victories and of targets. By the time the sound systems were partying in the park it was the mere presence of the cops that was provocation enough. A bottle for the Beanfield, a stone for Colin Roach, a lump of wood for evictions, poverty, getting nicked for nothing..... a few thousand people revolting for the "right" to revolt, partying for the "right" to fight, for the space and autonomy that the new Bill and Old Bill are designed to close down.

160 BPM
(Bricks per minute)

Once things got started the terrain and numbers did the rest. What use is a line of riot cops when there's enough room to outflank and surround them, a cavalry charge when people can scarper in all directions and then regroup (the stampeding crowd being more of a threat than the horses), a whole mass of riot cops when there's barricades in the form of park railings, strengthened after they were torn down for weapons in a previous revolt over a century ago. We don't have such numbers and good terrain in our daily battles, the lines are drawn less clearly and bricks and bottles not always the appropriate weapons, but the intelligence, anger and party spirit were certainly an inspiration to take back home, along with the most important fact - this time we actually won!

The (over)confidence from Park Lane was shown ten days later at the lobby of Parliament when the final reading of the Bill was taking place. Normally the idea of a lobby of Parliament and a rally across the road would have attracted only theusual hacks with nothing better to do, but the Bill has become a focus for anger the way the Poll Tax did, and people turned up wanting to continue. Considering the thousands of cops brought into the area we got away with an amazing amount, with large mobs stopping traffic and occasional skirmishes into the night. Many people had no intention of going into the rally to listen to speeches, and the rally was soon stopped by a firework which set off the fire alarm, bringing everyone back out to face the riot cops.

AND YET IT MOVES !

The next excuse for a go at the Bill was the attempted levitation of Parliament, part of the Anarchy in the UK festival. Some people claim that the building did actually wobble a bit, but most people weren't really concentrating properly. Some of us tried thinking "Semtex" very hard. but with no joy. An attempt to get down and burn a Union Jack was stopped by the cops, who did remarkably little, until the end when there was hardly anyone left. A load of TSG ran into the remains of the crowd like a bunch of football hooligans taking the opposition terrace, hit people, grabbed a few, and withdrew under a hail of bottles.

(Continued Page 2)

McDONALDS - NO THANKS

The libel case brought by McDonalds against two unwaged London Greenpeace activists, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, is now in its 15th week at the High Court, in a trial that's not expected to end until March 95. The evil multinational got riled about the leaflet 'What's Wrong with McDonalds' which exposes the reality of a profit hungry, exploitive, manipulative and murderous corporation behind their slick advertising and friendly, caring image.

Libel cases are stacked in favour of the rich and powerful, libel laws aren't there to uphold the truth but to silence the critics of wealthy people and powerful organisations. The two defendents have been denied legal aid and trial by jury (McDonalds claiming that the case is 'too complex' for normal people to understand). The McLibel 2 have secured more than 65 defence witnesses, including experts in nutrition and health, the environment, animal welfare and workplace conditions. They've also taken out a counter claim for libel against McDonalds after they called them liars.

During the trial Paul Preston, McDonalds UK chief lay down a challenge "If I feed a million people and they all bought a soft drink, I bet in the entire UK we wouldn't find 150 cups (as litter)." McDonalds themselves claim to produce 10 million kilos of throwaway crap every year, this ends up in landfill sites damaging the environment. London Greenpeace and Veggies are calling on people to send Mr Preston all his harmful and unwanted rubbish back.

Send your bagfulls of rubbish to: Paul Preston, McDonalds HQ, 11-59 High Road, London, N2 8AW

Also on 15/10/94 in London - 500 people and a similar number of free MC Crap burger eaters in blue uniforms attended a demo in support of the Mc Libel 2 for the 4th annual anti MC Donalds demo. When the demo stopped outside the Strand branch, cops laid into people who were sitting down on the road with a few arrests. The shop in the Strand had its window put in afterwards.

The 15th of October saw solidarity action the Netherlands by the 'Helen Steel Commando' - but the article is in Dutch so we cannot tell you anything more

A rather more exicting action occured in Mexico City on 8/11/94 when 40 masked customers visted the local centre of Yankee imperialism and trashed it. They went back to another one for a burger but were not allowed in by the mobilised police. The action took place in protest against the anti immigrant proposition on the California ballot paper this year.

Finally, a group of workers from McDonalds are getting together in London building on experiences in Canada and France - they say 'smile when YOU feel like it'

Contact: McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX. Mc Donalds Workers Group is c/o Hackney Trade Union Support Unit 10a Bradbury St N16

INSIDE:
• SNOOPERS • BANKERS and JOB PLANNERS • STRUGGLES • EVENTS • CONTACTS and CHEESY GRAPHICS

• HOW WE DONE IT

We get material for ***contra*FLOW** through the European Counter Network (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem), through our fax (0171-326-0353) and through magazines and our own involvement in events and struggles.

We appeal for news from your particular thing esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. We are not journalists and some of us are pretty shy, so you can't expect us to write about everything that's happening. ***contra*FLOW** has limited space but don't be put off from sending longer stuff. Material that doesn't get into the paper, may be put into E.C.N and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful.

• DISTRIBUTION

You can help us distribute ***contra*FLOW** by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 etc from us and putting them about in schools, colleges, workplaces, gigs, demos etc. Send some stamps and we'll post them to you. Or you can pick them up from

- **56a Infoshop** 56 Crampton St, Elephant & Castle, London SE17
Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm

- **121 Books** 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24 from Wed 4-8pm, Fri, Sat from 1-5pm (but phone first 0171-274-6655)

Or you can receive the lastest issue direct from us via the Post and MI5 if you send us a stamped enveloped. One SAE equals one issue, 2 for 2 etc..

• CASH FOR SALE

Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarly and rely on donations. We accept cheques (payable to A.HODSON). aswell as ripped off office equipment and Xmas hampers of food and champagne. Thanks in advance...ho.ho.ho!

SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE ! LEGAL DEFENCE AND MONITORING GROUP

With parts of the Criminal Justice Bill now law, we may well see an increase in arrests on demonstrations, which could mean more people being imprisoned. The extra police powers are the last thing we need, seeing as the police already get away with arrests, beatings etc on demos far too often. Some of us think it's about time we stopped them having it all their own way. We think the lessons of the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign during poll tax and other demos should be adopted, ie that we prepare and organise ourselves for demonstrations. This means monitoring demos for arrests, organising legal back-up, giving support and helping with defence for those going to court. The way we see it, we would rather prevent people going to prison, than support them while they're inside.

A group of people from various campaigns/causes in London have come together to establish a London defence and monitoring group to stand up against police repression. If you're interested in getting involved/helping out, a meeting has been organised at:

CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, LONDON, WC1.
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 1994,
1.30 - 4.30 PM.

We need people to be legal observers at demonstrations, monitoring arrests, going to court, also people to hand out bust cards, telling people of their rights and what to do when arrested. If you can't make the meeting but want to help out in any way, please contact us at the address below.

LONDON DEFENCE & MONITORING GROUP,
C/O BM BOX HAVEN, LONDON, WC1N 3XX.

◆

(Continued from front page)

More police action took place on the CND demo on October 29, when they went in and snatched people who were masked up or looked like their idea of trouble makers. They had told CND that they had "intelligence" that international anarchos were going to cause trouble and asked for the demo to be stopped, which CND weren't going to accept, having spent so long publicising this resurrection. Out of those arrested only three people were charged , but this police tactic of pre-emptive arrest is something we will have to watch out for.

ITS AN ACT!

On November 3rd somebody calling herself the Queen of England etc put her seal of approval on the CJB turning it into an Act. Not all of it has actually come into force yet and none of the squatting stuff will be in till next year, but obviously it was time to turn up the action.

The first action was on that day down the M11 protest, where all work was stopped by occupations of land, cranes etc. and the main site was turned into a big party, with metal girders etc becoming instruments for many Test Department imitators. The cops didn't use the new law and security was fairly laid-back, except at one bit where punches were thrown, but then they panicked because they thought someone had slipped down a hole into a live gas pipe.

The next day 5 people climbed onto the roof of the Houses of Parliament with an anti-CJB banner, showing up the security and so the power of the state on its home ground.

The first arrests under the new act were in Manchester on Saturday 5th, when 7 anti-M65 protestors occupied a Laing's crane in the middle of town. The cops sent in negotiators to get them down and eventually they agreed, but the cops then ignored what had been negotiated (if the cops send negotiators to your action, ask for a helicopter and £10,000 before you'll discuss anything). 3 of them accepted cautions and the other 4 were charged under the Aggravated Trespass laws of the new Act. The first court case under the Act will be on 21 November, but this'll only be a preliminary.

On the same day 5 hunt sabs got nicked under the same powers at a foxhunt in Northamptonshire. 2 were nicked on a public footpath (for trespass!) and the other three were chased and brought down from a tree by the Fire Brigade. 5 other hunt sabs have since been nicked under the Act.

WEEK OF ACTION

The week of action against the act started on the 12th with a combined trespass at BAe land in Stevenage and a picket of the Indonesian embassy, against the sale of Hawk fighterplanes to the repressive Indonesian state.

The next action was meant to be the resistance to the eviction of Glading Terrace in Hackney on the Monday, but the cops and council heard about the plans and turned up on the Friday instead, evicting and trashing the 30 flats before anything could be organised. The night before 18 cop vehicles turned up at the local pub for punk night, for no reason, led by PC E212 Hacker who started all the trouble at Hackney Town Hall demo. 5 people were nicked for nothing, but the people from Glading Terrace had already gone home.

A more successful resistance was held aganst the eviction of the squatted Court house in Brighton where barricades and people on the roof kept bailiffs busy for 9 hours.

The Wednesday saw an action from Youth CND, giving out leaflets illegal under the new Act because they contained information that could be useful to terrorists and is not in the public domain - stuff about the transport of nuclear missiles. Its worth knowing when they're passing by your door.

Thursday was squat day with a big old hotel opposite Kensington Palace taken over for the day, with massive banners, much support from passers-by and no hassle from the cops. The event was ended with a firework display from the roof. On the same day a sleep-out was held in Rugby against the Act and attacks on the homeless.

Friday night saw a small illegal party outside Hackney Town Hall with fire jugglers and loads of graffitti (including various threats to PC Hacker) but cops only turned up when someone tried to kick down the doors again, and left soon after. One of the jugglers tried stopping the attack on the door and the ensuing discussion was at the wonderful intellectual level of someone constantly shouting "anarchy" and trying to hit him.

For the weekend there's planned a mass hunt sab and an M11 trespass but we've got to go to press now.

For further news contact the Freedom Network, 372 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PT (tel. 071 738 6721).

A Park Lane Defence Campaign has been set up by some of those arrested. If you were nicked or could be a witness for someone who was, contact them c/o the Coalition against the CJB c/o 136-138 Kingsland High St London E8 2NS (071-923-0333)

New pamphlet: The Battle for Hyde Park: ruffians, radicals and ravers, 1855-1994 - A history of demonstrations and riots in Hyde Park, with accounts from the past 140 years. Available free from Practical History, 121 Railton Road, London SE24 (please send stamped addressed envelope).

YOU'VE BEEN FRA

If you're the sort of perso
likes to get stuff done, and we mea
sort of stuff that puts obstacles i
way of inherently fucked behaviou
building stupid motorways or ru
private prisons, then you may or ma
know that it's not just the cops wh
to get your face on their video re
ers.

Lurking around anti-road sit
Twyford Down, Wanstead, Solsbury
and Wymondham, posing as security g
and video-ing protestors on and
site, have been sneaks from B
DETECTIVE AGENCY. Acting on beha
the Dept. Of Transport to *"collect*
dence of trespass and to serve
papers on protestors", the snoops
thus far been paid over 321,000 p
with no official contract or guidel
ever being publically scrutinised.
and the D.O.T continue to deny campa
ers who have been subject to
injunctions in an attempt to intimi
them away from protest sites. acce
their files.

The D.O.T's first tactic at
road protest is to install privat
curity firms to "secure the site"
two companies involved are **RELIANC**
GROUP 4, both with notorious recor
violence against protestors inclu
sudden brutal illegal evictions

IN MEMORY
of Sylvia Bolgar
comrade and friend of
Camden Stop The Poll Tax and a
million other battles
Died 18th October 1994 aged 70
a fighter all of her life
RESPECT

I THOUGHT WE BEAT THE POLL TAX!

According to government figures, 2,085 people ha
been jailed for non-payment of the Poll Tax up t
last March, with the numbers increasing all the tim
620 of them were in the 6 months to March 94. Mo
appeals have been winning, showing that magis
trates don't really understand the law, so if you're u
for commital procedings, 1) don't turn up - mak
things hard for them, and 2) get advice. Of course i
they get you into court at this stage you've basicl
got the choice of eventually going to prison o
agreeing to pay it off as slowly as possible.

BANK NOT.

At the end of September the World Bank and International Monetary Fund met up in Madrid to plot their continuing campaign to control the world, and were met by international protest and resistance.

The opportunity was used to organise an international alternative forum under the name "Other Voices of the Planet" where 1,000 people discussed strategies and organised against the bankers.

On the streets the main event was a massive demo of 30,000 which turned the centre of Madrid into a great big party, with many other events following the bankers around to jeer at them. 300 protestors had a sit-down protest outside the Stock Exchange where the bankers had been invited for cocktails, 70 went into a reception for them at the main Arts Centre, jeering, gobbing and throwing money at them. Outside a Merc belonging to one of the bankers was stoned and the cops waded in nicking 6 people who were held for 72 hours. The rest went on to smash bank windows.

Other events led to more police charges, nickings and revenge aganst more Mercs and banks. A camp was set up outside the main prison by a national group fighting unemployment, making the connections between the policies of the bankers, poverty and repression, and a sound system broadcast messages to the prisoners inside.
In all the bankers were shown the contempt they deserve, but they're still getting away with their campaign of destruction.

from Molotov

MAYDAY, MAYDAY!

Do you think Mayday is;
a) a bank holiday when a few lefties march around,
b) a day of international proletarian solidarity,
c) a distress call?

OK, so they're all correct in a way, but if you reckon (b) is the most important, you may be interested in a call from comrades in the US to reclaim Mayday.

The idea is to make the event more relevant and international by focussing on the World Bank and IMF, the global dictators of exploitation, with the type of action left open for imagination - there should be plenty of fun ways to "structurally adjust" the bastards.

The idea comes from Neither East Nor West, 339 Lafayette St, New York NY10012, and over here its being taken up by Black Flag c/o BM Hurricane, London WC1N3XX. Spread the word and get in touch for more info.

ED (OR WILL BE!)

disorientation tactic against long-standing anti-road campaigns.

IN THEIR FACES

On September 1st pissed off anti road campaigners took direct action against Brays and occupied their Southampton HQ, demanding to see computer files (via the Data Protection Act) being kept on various protestors and eventually climbing onto the roof and draping a large "Nosey Parkers" banner across the HQ's facade. Another attempt to watch the watchers has been the publication by The Eastender of 36 mugshots of cops and security guards from the M11 sites who've been filmed assualting campaigners. An appeal for identification and info about those pictured steps up the campaign to actually get in the faces of those who try to fuck us over. With the increasing use of private firms to spy on us, court injunctions that seek to jail us if we 'misbehave' and now new measures under the Criminal Justice Act that criminalise direct action, info and files on us are circulating thru' a network of cops, hired thugs and the Government. The increasing use of surveillance against activists is happening but it could just be this years waste of taxes or State plaything or it may just be what we are going to have to deal with from now on. What we shouldn't do is freak out or give up but just put these fuckers in our sites too. We should go for Brays, go for Reliance and go for Group 4.

FLOORING GROUP 4

There has been a discussion going on for some time about initiatng some sort of direct action campaign (covert and public) against Group 4 just because their noxious business extends from beating up anti-roads people to guarding (!) 'refugees' at Campsfield Detention Centre in Oxford (see C/F July '94). They also own Ecover, the planet-saving washing-up liquid. Not!

Talk of a **Day of Action Against Group 4** at the start of 1995 has been mooted and we support it, although a more sustained campaign would be more effective. *Any campaigns/people who want to work around anti-Group 4 activity should contact -*
GROUP 4 ACTION via *contra*FLOW (by mail or fax).

Just for starters here's some options for you party people-

- **GROUP 4 HQ, 7 Carlos Place, LONDON W1Y 5AE**
(071-629-9736)
- **RELIANCE HQ, Surety Hse, 86 Brigstock Rd, THORNTON HEATH**
(081-665-5959) with other centres in North & South London

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

It seems to be that time again when councils make their plans to cut what little remains of services, and people have to try to defend them again.

One success story so far comes from Harringey, where a noisy demo of about 100 outside the Civic centre managed to stop the threatened closure of two family centres. Kids and parents in Islington from the "Campaign for Play" (good name) have been noisily hassling the council against plans to close 2 adventure playgrounds, and resisting attempts to divide and rule. In Westminster attempts to enforce strict new licencing regulations on ice-cream vans has been met with angry convoys of them messing up traffic (Critical ChocIce ?) and there's obviously much more that we don't hear about.

THIS IS STUPID!! YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF LOONIES!!

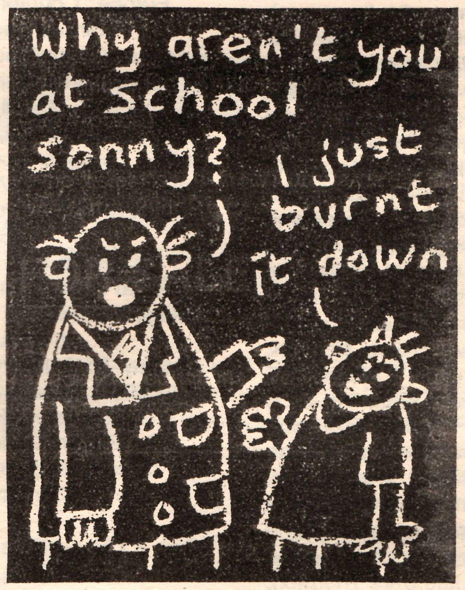
WE CAN WIN

Last year an Islington nursery won a reprieve after a long occupation and in 92/3 Harringey community groups managed to reduce cuts from a planned 65% down to 6.9% by uniting and thinking up different tactics. But do we really have to fight every year just to keep cuts as small as possible, just so our services disappear more slowly than the state might like?

Between the Barricaded Desks at Hackney Downs School

In October of '94 Hackney Downs School, a small comprehensive school for boys in northeast London, was made aware of secret plans for closure leaked to the press and the Hackney Association of Teachers, plans that fall straight in line with the Blair Labour Party vision for the inner-city.

The tabloid press have dubbed Hackney Downs School (HDS) the "worst school in Britain" (students and education workers there know otherwise!), providing further justification to the Council to shut the school, though the real agenda of the Council rests at the door of "financial interests", sacking education workers, and disrupting a growing unity amongst the HDS young working class male students that both the Council and the cops find threatening.


Why aren't you at School Sonny?
I just burnt it down

On the financial side, HDS is considered prime candidate for closure because of its high percentage of short-term contract workers who have no promise of twelve months' redundancy pay when given the sack. These workers, many of whom are responsible for creating vast improvements in the school over the years, also have little possibility of another job with the Borough.

In fact, it appears the Council have had its eyes on HDS closure for some time, doing no real maintenance on school grounds for eight years, not replacing left staff, and dumping the borough's most challenging young men on HDS teachers providing teachers with extra added and unneeded stress.

Erosion of working conditions has also come in the form of massive state and Council intervention, with an unreasonabe number of inspections (three in the first seven months of '94) requiring massive additional preparation and paperwork by HDS workers, a new licensing scheme imposing extra workload on six migrant workers at the school, and the introduction of the National Curriculum which derails attempts to develop appropriate (ie. pro-working class) education and again, creates loads of new, extra work.

Worrying to the Council is the cohesion and unity shown on the part of the HDS students. This is a student population not divided by racism — and despite vastly different backgrounds, the large number of refugee students, and expelled students from many other schools, together they've managed to construct a coherent working class identity and resistance (unfortunately not void of the traditional sexism and homophobia, but it's a bloody good start!) that will put them in good stead for the coming years of poverty-line wages and the dole. Such cohesion will be effectively disrupted when the students are sent off to other schools, just as attempts to disrupt cohesion/solidarity of a young, working class nature are being made through cuts to Section 11 (money for "minority" students) across the country.

BUT RESISTANCE IS STRONG...

On the positive side, news of plans to close HDS has opened opportunities for much needed resistance. The school's short-term education workers, due to their precarious position, have nothing to lose by fighting and everything to gain. The students, as if they haven't enough reason for their growing unity and resistance, have further grounds for rebellion...

In this context, fighting is success in itself, but potential is great for something much more. Something such as bringing together disparate communities in Hackney, particularly the black British and Turkish and Kurdish migrants. And something such as giving reason to the next generation of kids destined for the dole, the kids getting hassled on the streets, to give the Labour Party Mafia who run Hackney BIG BLOODY NOSES. All this will put them in good stead for what Tony Blair's got in store for them.

For more information and support call the NUT Group Action Line on 081 533 0499 weekdays, 4-5.30pm.

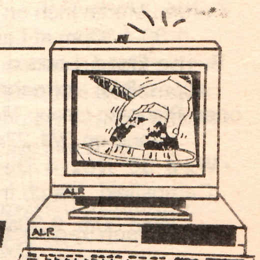
GET ORGANISED OR DIE IN ISOLATION

"Do you (or your local group) feel isolated in your local area, wondering if what you are doing will change anything ?"
Haringey Solidarity Group are trying to bring together groups to build on our strengths, share information, discuss tactics for changing society and generally get our shit together.

Fine, but who is going to unite all the groups trying to unite everyone and why haven't they. Who are we going to get together with ? More sad folks with nothing better to do than go to meetings. Sorry to be so negative but the first thing we need if we are going to come together is some serious self-criticism, and working out how we can learn from others, else we'll build another talking shop and reproduce our isolation by making our ghetto a bit bigger.

HSG aren't pretending it will be easy and are calling for responses before they try to set up a nationwide gathering. Hopefully they'll accept these and other bits of cynicism in the spirit of solidarity intended. Anyway, it is a good idea really.

If you like HSG's idea then con tact Molly at HSG, Box 2474, London N8 0HW



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Calendar

in NOVEMBER

Weds 23. Discipinary hearing for worker at Hackney Law Centre who faces sack 2pm.HLC Mare St. E8 near Town hall

- **Fri 25-Sun 27**. Global Partnership '94, "*A World Fair for a Fair World*" Fair with music, exhibitions, films, meetings, etc.. Childcare too. Four quid waged, two unwaged, at the Barbican Exhibition Halls. More info on PO Box 1001, London, SE24 9NL.
- **Fri 25**. Better yet, to help organize a demo against the World Bank Stall at the Global Partnership Conference, meet at 12 Noon at the Barbican Tube Station.
- **Fri 25** (and last Friday of each month) Critical Mass - rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.
- **Fri 25-Sun 27** Plowshares Support Network Gathering, somewhere near Oxford. Ring 071.275 9150 for details.
- **Fri 25** Int'l Day to End Violence Against Women, noon to 2pm demo outside of Home Office to call for the release of Josephine Smith, Emma Humphreys and Sara Thornton, all jailed for killing their violent partners. Home Office at Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1, opposite St. James Park Tube.
- **Fri 25 - Sun 27** Media Jam, DIY Media Creation, workshops, discussions, shows, action. A weekend to discuss, self-educate and put into practice the creation of grassroots media. At Bloomin Arts, E. Oxford Community Centre, Princes St, Cowley Road, Oxford. More info from Box B, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4, UK Fax:0865 724317, BBS: 0715019126
- **Sat 26** Close Down Campsfield protest, 12 noon, Campsfield Immigration Prison, Kidlington (opposite airport), for transport meet at 11.30, Taylorian, St. Giles. Confirm on 57282 or 724452 or 726804.
- **Sat 26**. Annual General Meeting of the Hammersmith Unemployed Workers' Centre, 3-5pm, with stalls, speakers, etc., plus an 8pm to mid-night special event TBA. 190 Shepherds Bush Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 7NL. Ring 071.603.4278/1831 for more info..
- **Sat 26** Troops Out Movement Conference, "*Ireland the politics of peace: developing the case for British Withdrawal*" 10-5.30pm, London Student Union, Malet St., WC1, 12 quid waged, 6 unwaged. More Info on Troops Out Movement, BM Tom, London WC1N 3XX.

- **Sun 27**. "*Self-defence is no offence*", meeting to organize a London-wide legal defence and monitoring group to stand up against police repression (see article this issue). 1.30-4.30 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., WC1. More info at London Defence and Monitoring Group, c/o BM Box Haven, London, WC1N 3XX.
- **Wed 30**. Lambeth Disability Information Forum, Martin Inch on "*Incapacity Benefit*". 1.30-4.30pm at Lambeth ACCORD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9. Premises fully accessible, refreshments, etc..4.30-5pm open Planning Group Meeting. More info call Anne on 071 274 2299/071 978 8765.
- **Wed 30 Nov-4 Dec** Campaign to Close Campsfield. March from Oxford to London

Wed 30th, 9.30am at Carfax, centre of Oxford going to Benson;

- Thursday to Henley with an 8pm meeting at the YMCA Hall Reading Room;

- Friday to Slough with a 7.30pm meeting at the Labour Memorial Hall, 29 Church Street;

- Saturday 3rd to Hardmondsworth Immigration Prison, DEMONSTRATE noon-1.30, then to Southall for a 7pm rally and cultural evening, Dominion Centre, the Green; - Sunday 4th, meet at 10.30am at Earls Court Tube via Kings Road, present petition w/ floats, drummers (bring one!), etc., 1pm in Whitehall.

More info., CTCC c/o 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, 0865 724452 / 726804.

in DECEMBER

- **Thurs 1**. Troops Out Movement vigil to mark three months since IRA ceasefire, calling for British withdrawal from Ireland. 6pm, Trafalgar Square. More info 071 609 1743.
- **Sat 3**. Dead by Dawn at 121 Centre, techno acid speedcore. 121 Railton Road, Brixton. 11pm-7am, a couple quid admission. More info ring 071 274 6655. First Saturday every month.
- **Wed 7** Second Meeting of the Proposed Anarchist Federation of Britain, 8pm in the small hall at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. More info 4 Copper Beeches, Witham Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 4AW, 081 847 0203.
- **Fri-Sat 9/10**. "*Their Europe is not Our Europe*" Counter Actions/demo in Essen, Germany against the meeting of the European Council made up of a bunch of icky bureaucrats, politicians and big business people. They'll be discussing the social policy within the EU and its attitude towards the E. European countries. We'll be reaking havoc. More info, Anti-EU-Koordination, c/o initiativentrum, Weberstrasse 79, D-45879 Gelsenkirchen, Germany.
- **Fri 16** First court case for hunt sabs nicked under Criminal Injustice Act, Corby Magistrates Court, 9.45. More info on Hunt Sab Association, 0602590357.
- **Sun 25th** Everything destroyed by anti-capitalism cataclysm - new anarchist social order prevails...back to work Monday
- **Fri 30** Critical Mass bike ride, rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars. 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.
- **Sat 31** New Years Rave Against CJA. This one will be BIG. Ring 081 959 7525

in JANUARY

- **Fri 6** Europe-wide Day of Action Against the World Bank. Ring 0258 473 476 for further details on local events.
- **Fri 27** Critical Mass Bikeride, rebellious cyclists block off the streets to roadhog cars, 5.45pm, NFT Piazza, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.

in FEBRUARY

- **Mon 6**. Tower Hamlets 9 trial begins, Southwark Crown Court. More info on 081 548 0099.

On a regular basis:

- Daily fur shop pickets in Central London. Interested participants can ring 071 837 7557 for more info.
- Weekly Sunday picket of 173 Camden High Street branch of Boots, 2.30-5pm. Ring same number as above for details.
- First and third Sunday of every month are pickets outside the chicken slaughterhouse in Leyden St, E1, meet outside Liverpool St. Station (Bishopsgate exit) at 10.45-11am.
- Radical queers Outrage! meet every Thursday at 7.30pm at the YWCA Central Club, 16-22 Great Russell St. Come to meetings to find out about actions, as actions aren't often pre-publicized.

• some contacts for you lot:

these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help drive the bus!

- ***Advisory Service for Squatters***, 2 St Pauls Rd, N1, 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm.useful practical advice, the law etc.
- ***SQUASH***, same address as above, tel 071 226 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law.
- ***121 Centre***, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open Wed 4-8pm- Fri/Sat 1-5pm , but ring to check.
- ***56a Info Shop***, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon,Thurs,Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- ***London Class War***, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group, help to produce the populist 'Class War' paper.
- ***Colin Roach Centre*** 10A Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian/Gay festival organisers, and ocal revos and activists. Tel 071-241-4071
- ***Direct Action Network*** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce briiliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- ***Haringey Unwaged Centre***, 72 West Green Rd, Tottenham, London, N15. Tel 081 802 9804. Involved in community/social struggles: dole, anti-VAT on Fuel, squatting etc. Open weekdays.
- ***Anti Nuclear Network***, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. Direct Action against nukes/nuke power,publish newsletter.
- ***London Greenpeace***, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. Inspiring 20 year old anarcho-ecological group that works around borders, McDonalds, nukes etc Regular open meetings on Thursday nites. >>> check 'em out.

LONDON LOCAL SQUATTING GROUPS

- ***(Southwark) Homeless Occupiers Project***, 612 Old Kent Rd, SE17. Mon-Fri 4-7pm, also workshops on useful issues/problems Mondays at 7pm. 071-277 7639
- ***Lewisham Squatters***, 47 Pressingham Rd, SE13.Was new group last issue (Sept '94)
- ***Acton Squatters***, 53 Western Ave, W3. Was new group last issue (Sept '94)
- ***Haringey Squatters*** (write to): the Unwaged Centre, 72 West Green Rd, N15

NON STARTER

In a bid to make me the U.K's least able but none-the-less employed person, the Dept. Of Employment have gone for my throat and have been Restarting me on an almost fortnightly basis. For those who don't know, a Restart is an interview with a 'client advisor' from your Welfare office about how your search for work is going. You get your first Restart after 6 months of claiming the dole and there's nothing they can make you do as long as you fill in the form correctly. Then at a year of signing-on, they can put you on a week-long Jobplan course to learn about getting a job and you can't get out of it.

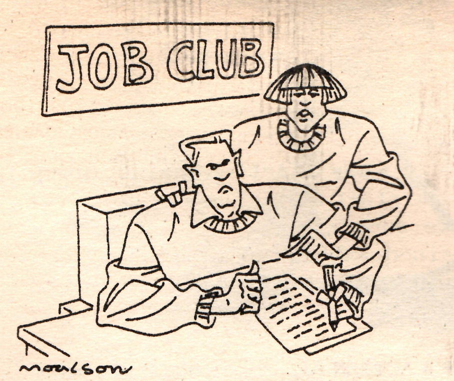
EVERYONE SAY 'FUCK THAT'

Instead of being run by Employment Service folks, Jobplan's are contracted out to private firms which means many things to many people. To the Jobplan staff it means being paid 11,000 pounds to what was a 16,000 pound Civil Service job. To people like me, it means the 'trainers' don't really take it that seriously because who is really going to get stressed out trying to get 15 or more long-term unemployed to listen to shite all week. It also means things fuck up like they don't get their video to show us or they cut stuff short. Funnily enough, if you think 'human management' sounds like a good choice for money-making entrepaneurs, forget it. My first Jobplan week was cancelled when Cathedral, a massive concern with many Employment Service contracts, went into liquidation. I told them that I'd see 'em down the dole queue!

WE HAVE FUN

The thought of sitting in a classroom for a week learning about jobs and how to get one is obviously not a joyous one. Day one and everyone is pissed off and says so right away and that sets the tone. Then we do all these games to get to know everyone (which is okay) and then start on the work garbage- making CV's, action plans, writing letters, discussing job ads. By day 2, no-one is happy and a more valid discussion about work constantly interrupts the teachers bullshit. Whatever worky drivel he tells, the context of us being there, being unemployed people and poor too just has to be part of the course. You can't escape it, we tell him and we never let up. He tries to keep us focused on the work but people go into brilliant rants about their past employment and about work in general and about wages and shit conditions and how everyone in the room is better off on the dole with housing benefit too because the jobs that are around will only make people 20 or 30 quid better off after a full weeks work. Fuck that is the consensus.

By Day 3, everyone is just bored and restless and making excuses about dentist appointments and that and they give us Day 4 off ! "Just turn up on Friday", he says! The last day (only 9.45-12) sails past and we get our travel paid. I got 12 quid and I walked there, ten minutes maximum, every day.



"And here, Mr Jones, instead of 'I was made redundant because the boss is a wanker', how about 'I took the opportunity to seek fresh challenges' "

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

The Jobplan staff were typical. One was the post-Sixties cynical 'I'm on your side' creep, and the other was a straight as fuck, by the book moron who had no appreciation of dole life or it's traditions (i.e whatever you can get away with). They were the hard cop-soft cop routine. The one who thought he was hip to us was the U.K Rodeo Riding champion in 1993 so there's credibility for you. The other guy wanted to set up an import/export business and was just doing this for a couple of years to get stable. Despite their assurances that they wouldn't force people to do anything they didn't want too, they did get some less confidant people to sign for JobClub or really dodgy training schemes. Some people on the JobPlan did want to work but treating individual cases as part of a wider, so-called 're-starting' training doesn't help them. It's obvious from the first moment you get put on a JobPlan that it's really only about your name coming out of the computer list of 'long-term signers-on. There's nothing personal in it. Your individuality, like do you want to work?, can you work?, do you need help?, are you coping generally? etc don't figure in the game. And, the local Employment Service branches are penalised if they don't get you on a JobPlan course after your name's been spewed out. Everyone's scheming somewhere with your life and you don't get to say much about it (unless you fancy losing some benefit). It's just this year's system that someone, somewhere else has devised.

I must say that apart from having to attend by threat of losing my giro, the actual hanging out and bludgeoning we gave these pseudo-social workers was an oddly powerful experience. Brought together at random, the group was a remarkably great and cool bunch of humans. Everyone said when asked to reflect on the week that the social side had been the best part of the course and that the rest hadn't taught them anything. Jobplan 0 - People 15.

ETERNAL RE-START

But hey! talking about individuals as we were, don't think think my problems are over. I've had three new interviews since completing my JobPlan week. Guess there must be a red mark by my name or something. Maybe the Restart officers just pissed at me for not inviting her to my '10 Years On The Dole' milkshake party that I had in July ! Never work!

• The fuckers that ran my Jobplan are
COMPUTER INSIGHT,159 High St, Penge, SE20 7DS.U.K
Tel 081-778-8322 / Fax 081-659-1324.
The manager is a Mr Gordon J Kelly. They tell me that they are an "investor in people" which is a 90's 'Human Resources Management' (got that?) buzzword for profiting on the backs of those in a desparate and fucked-up situation.

ARRESTING PUBLICATIONS

ByPass Box B, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 (one quid + SAE)
The U.K zine and small press review mag, no question. They put effort into this and it shows

Bike.Not Chris c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17 (25p + SAE)
More notions of radical and crap cycling combined plus other fucking fun and shit !

My Own Cum c/o Terminal Projects Grp, 1573 N.Milwaukee #422, Chicago IL 60622 USA (send International Reply Coupon)
Great 'zine all about masturbation that's way, way funny and liberating too, ya wankers !

Alien Underground BM Jed, London WC1N 3XX (one pound + SAE)
A nice marriage of Techno culture and radical desire. Dare we say 'wicked, mate '?!

Gaztexte: Squatting In Pamplona c/o contraFLOW (SAE + donation -50p max) The inspiring story of the Youth House squat eviction and re-occupation. Local solidarity, cops on drugs, victory. This has it all + more!

Squatting Is Still Legal! ASS, 2 St.Pauls Rd, London N1 (free + SAE)
Leaflet detailing the lowdown on current squatting situation. Put out by ASS and SQUASH so it's cool info dudes!!